

Committee on the Budget • Majority Caucus U.S. House of Representatives Iim Nussle, Chairman

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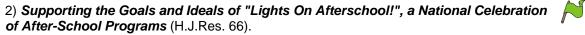
Summarizing budgetary issues in legislation scheduled for the House floor

26 September 2005

Week of 26 September 2005

SUSPENSION CALENDAR

1) Natural Disaster Student Aid Fairness Act (H.R. 3863). This bill waives the reallocation rules for Campus-Based Aid program funds (Perkins Loans, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, and Work Study) with respect to students affected by Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita. It also extends, through 30 September 2006, the deadline by which funds may be reallocated to institutions of higher education due those hurricanes. The Department of Education has indicated the direct spending effect of this bill – the effect of spending not subject to appropriations - could be as high as \$40 million, but the Congressional Budget Office [CBO] has yet to confirm that estimate. The bill includes an emergency designation pursuant to section 402 of the fiscal year 2006 budget resolution (H.Con.Res. 95), so the direct spending will not be counted against the section 302(a) allocation for the Committee on Education and the Workforce.





This resolution has no budget implications.

3) To Designate the Facility of the United States Postal Service Located at 8501 Philatelic Drive in Spring Hill, Florida, as the "Staff Sergeant Michael Schafer Post Office Building" (H.R. 3703). This bill will not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.



4) To Designate the Facility of the United States Postal Service Located at 57 West Street in Newville, Pennsylvania, as the "Randall D. Shughart Post Office Building" (H.R. 2062). This bill will not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.



5) To Designate the Facility of the United States Postal Service Located at 2000 Allston Way in Berkeley, California, as the "Maudelle Shirek Post Office Building" (H.R. 438). This bill will not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.



6) Supporting the Goals and Ideals of Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Expressing the Sense of Congress that Congress Should Raise Awareness of Domestic Violence in the United States and Its Devastating Effects On Families (H.Con.Res. 209).



This resolution has no budget implications.

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PLEASE NOTE: This document addresses budgetary issues only. It should not be taken to address support or opposition on any other grounds. A green flag indicates no serious budgetary or budget compliance concerns. A vellow flag indicates moderate or potential problems. A red flag indicates serious problems. Also note: Floor schedules and legislative details are subject to change after publication.

This document was prepared by the majority staff of the Committee on the Budget, U.S. House of Representatives. It has not been approved by the full committee and therefore may not reflect the views of all the committee's members.

7) Expressing the Sense of Congress That the United States Supreme Court Should Speedily Find the Use of the Pledge of Allegiance In Schools to Be Consistent With the Constitution of the United States (H.Con.Res. 245).



This resolution has no budget implications.

8) Expressing the Sense of the House of Representatives Regarding the July, 2005, Measures of Extreme Repression on the Part of the Cuban Government Against Members of Cuba's Prodemocracy Movement, Calling For the Immediate Release of All Political Prisoners, the Legalization of Political Parties and Free Elections In Cuba, Urging the European Union to Reexamine Its Policy Toward Cuba, and Calling On the Representative of the United States to the 62d Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to Ensure a Resolution Calling Upon the Cuban Regime to End Its Human Rights Violations, and for Other Purposes (H.Res. 388). This resolution has no budget implications.

9) Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Enhancement Act of 2005 (H.R. 3200). This bill makes permanent the authority to increase maximum coverage under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance [SGLI] and the Veterans' Group Life Insurance [VGLI] programs. The authority originally was provided in the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief Act, 2005. In addition, the bill allows those servicemembers who are insured under SGLI to opt out of the Traumatic Injury Protection Insurance portion of the program. The bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.

LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE

Bill: Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2006

Through 2009 (H.R.3402).

Committee: Judiciary

Summary: This measure authorizes the appropriation of budget authority for the Department of

Justice through fiscal year 2009. The Department includes the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Drug Enforcement Administration, United States Attorneys, and the

Bureau of Prisons. Certain programs are authorized through fiscal year 2010.

Cost: For most programs and agencies covered by this bill, the measure specifically authorizes

discretionary spending – spending subject to annual appropriations – of about \$95 billion over the 2006-10 period. For a few programs, the bill authorizes the appropriation of such sums as necessary. Because the bill expands the ability to prosecute certain crimes, an increase in criminal fines – recorded as revenue – will result. Furthermore, because that revenue is deposited into the Crime Victims Fund and spent without further appropriation, a corresponding increase in direct spending will result. Due to the small number of cases affected, however, these direct spending and revenue effects are not expected to be

significant.

Budget Act: This bill does not violate any of the provisions of the Congressional Budget Act.

Bill: Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act of 2005 (H.R.3824).

Committee: Resources

Summary: This bill amends provisions under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 used to determine

endangered and threatened species. It also revises procedures for making such

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determinations, and the role of States and private property owners in the process. The bill creates a new entitlement program under which property owners who agree not to use property for certain noncompliant purposes may receive compensation from the Federal Government equivalent to the fair market value of the property.

Cost:

The Congressional Budget Office [CBO] has not provided an official cost estimate for this bill, but preliminary reviews indicate the new entitlement authority will increase direct spending by several million dollars annually. Due to an expected delay in the program's implementation, this increase is expected to begin in 2008. CBO does not expect the bill to affect direct spending in 2006 or 2007.

Budget Act:

Under section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act and H.Con.Res. 95 – the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006 – the Resources Committee may increase direct spending by \$8 million in 2006 and \$50 million over 2006-10. It is unclear whether this bill will breach the Resources Committee's section 302(a) allocation. In addition, the bill technically violates section 303 of the Congressional Budget Act, which prohibits the House from considering any measure that first provides new budget authority for a year for which a budget resolution has not yet been adopted. It is important to note, however, that the delayed spending effects do not result from legislative design, but rather from the time required for the administrative agency to implement the program.

[PLEASE NOTE: The House is expected to consider, later this week, a continuing resolution extending the Federal Government's spending authority that would otherwise expire on 30 September 2005 (the end of the current fiscal year). Final details on this measure are not yet available. When they are, the Budget Committee will publish an Appropriations Update summarizing them.]

Prepared by The Committee on the Budget

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